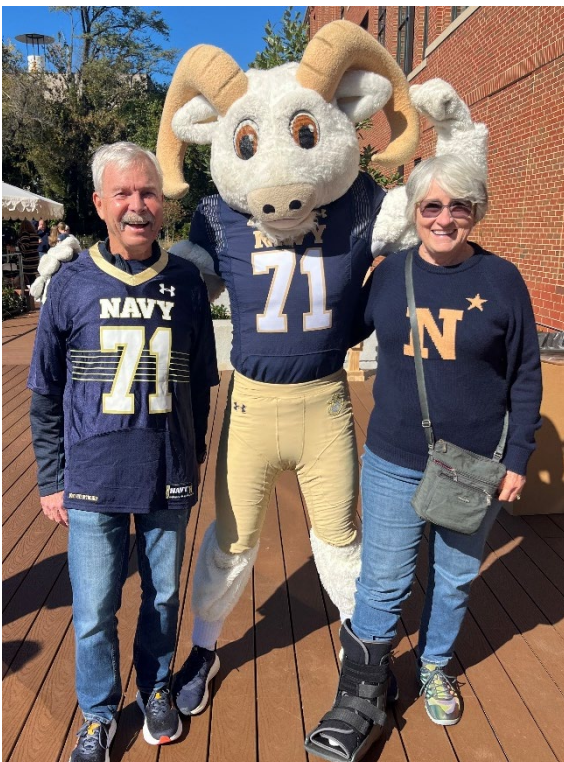


Shipmate March-April 2026– Part 1
Duke Longworth
24 January 2026

Spring in the Yard is always beautiful – flowers are blooming, the air is cool and refreshing. I always enjoyed Stribling Walk as I went from afternoon crew workouts at Hubbard Hall to Mother B. Occasionally, a visitor would stop me and ask directions, some even asked to take a photo of me, a typical midshipman. Life was good. It was a rather halcyon time.

First up is a note from **Carl Josefson**: “Duke, the pictures in the last *Shipmate* inspired me to send a picture of my wife, Jean, and me with Bill the Goat at the Homecoming gathering at the Fluegel Alumni Center, just before Navy beat South



Carl & Jean with Bill the GOAT

arranged for the four of us to get guided tours of the Peruvian Navy's tall sailing ship 'Union' and of the Peruvian Naval Academy (where Lucho spent 1.5 years before joining our USNA class in June 1967). The tours were delightful and the Peruvian Navy personnel very impressive. Sometimes, during reunions like this, the years seem to melt away; and this

Florida. Got to get these pictures before the opportunity vanishes! Go Navy, Carl.” Excellent photo! I look forward to seeing you at our 55th class reunion this fall!

Here's a note from **Bill Nevitt**: “Hi, Duke. In November, my wife, Susan, and I were on a cruise ship that stopped in Callao/Lima, Peru. There, we rendezvoused with classmate (and my 35th Company-mate) **Lucho Alvarez** and his wife Quela. To our great good fortune, Lucho



Bill Nevitt & Lucho Alvarez aboard the Union

was such a time. Best regards, Bill Nevitt.” Sounds like an excellent adventure, especially the opportunity to see Lucho and the *Union*. I hope to see you at our 55th class reunion this fall! excellent adventure, especially the

Next is a note from **Mike O'Connor**: “Hi Duke! Fourteen ‘Club 34’ classmates accompanied by eleven lovely ladies enjoyed a reunion in New Orleans, September 4th – 6th. The National WWII Museum captures that unforgettable time that shaped the entire world and undoubtedly most of our parents’ lives. The Higgins Hotel served as a comfortable base camp.

“**Randy Harper** once again went ‘above and beyond’ in arranging an incredible schedule of events. Planning & organizing matched his excellent 2019 effort (our last company reunion in Austin). Randy, Magnum Semper!

“In attendance: **Tom Bjerke**, Cathy & **Dick Cheliras**, Jessica Drown & **Frank Gallager**, Debbie & **Jim Gosma**, Lana & **Tom Hammons**, **Randy Harper**, Jean & **Chuck Janes**, Mary & **Charlie Keating**, Kathy & **Dan McConnell**, **Mike O'Connor**, Carol & **Kevin Nicolin**, Martha & **Jim Reasoner**, Nancy & **Rick Smith**, Linda & **Mike Trent**.

“**Frank Gallager** landed in style in his 1956 Cessna 170C, nickname ‘Stormy’, accompanied by copilot Jessica. His log recorded six hours flying time from Valkaria Airport, Florida (X59) to Lakefront Airport in New Orleans (KNEW). Frank can always be counted to make a memorable arrival and provide interesting updates!

“Two days of tours with great escapes to NOLA environs as needed. Some highlights: ‘*Freedom*’ film and lunch with music of the 1940s by Victory Belles trio. Stories (like wine) improving with age? Good times! At the final dinner a benediction on the many good fortunes of those gathered with reflection on those we loved and respected that went (too soon) before us: Mark **Beck**, **Bill Hatcher**, Rose Harper, **Jim Stratton**, **Earl Weinhaus**, Kathy Whitaker.

“The photos below were at Kilroy’s, Higgins Hotel; catching Navy-UAB game before dinner.



Club34 Reunion Guys



Club34 Reunion GALS

“Guys photo above: First two Rows (L – R): Charlie Keating, Randy Harper, Jim Reasoner, Mike Trent, Chuck Janes, Tom Hammons, Tom Bjerke, Dick Cheliras, Dan McConnell, Rick Smith and Frank Gallagher Back Row: Kevin Nicolin, Mike O’Connor and Jim Gosma.

“Gals photo above: (L-R) – Jessica Drown, Linda Trent, Lana Hammons, Debbie Gosma, Mary Keating, Martha Reasoner, Jean Janes, Carol Nicolin, Nancy Smith, and Cathy Cheliras. Best Regards, Mike O’Connor.” Sounds like a most excellent adventure. Hope to see many of you at our 55th class reunion!

Duces Virum, Duke